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*Helping children and adults with disabilities
 gain greater independence since 1926*



Network News

The newsletter of Easter Seals Wisconsin • Winter/Spring 2010

Caring Network A respite provider training program

April 8, 9 and 16, 2010
 Wisconsin Elks/Easter Seals Respite Camp
 Wisconsin Dells

In the state of Wisconsin there is, on average, one respite provider for every 333 caregivers. To help meet the enormous need statewide for quality respite care providers and to ensure that respite care is more readily available to all who need it, Easter Seals Wisconsin is providing the necessary training to create a statewide 'Caring Network' of respite care providers in communities across Wisconsin.

This training will address the needs of families in need of respite care who have a loved one with a disability, by educating and training people interested in becoming respite care providers. The intensive three-day training will cover the areas of challenging behaviors, personal care, communication techniques and activities of daily living. It is geared to understanding and meeting the needs of children and adults with autism, physical disabilities and the range of developmental disabilities.



The hands-on respite care training will be based on best practices developed from over 70 years of experience. A supervised one-to-one hands-on training experience during a Respite weekend session at Easter Seals Respite Camp will be included in the training. Upon completion of Caring Network training, participants will be certified in CPR for the Professional Rescuer and will receive certificates of completion in Caring for Challenging Moments, Medication Awareness, Communication Techniques, and Mandated Reporter Training. This will give them the skills needed to provide in-home respite care for caregivers in need.

Caring for a loved one with disabilities can be very rewarding but there is no denying it can also be exhausting and sometimes overwhelming. Through the Caring Network, Easter Seals Wisconsin hopes to bridge the gap between the numbers of caregivers needing respite care and respite providers available in their area.

To learn more, contact Val Croissant, Director of Respite Services, Easter Seals Wisconsin at respite1@wi.easterseals.com or by calling 1.608.254.2502.



Your Support Makes Smiles Like These Possible

Easter Seals Wisconsin thanks everyone whose generosity has enabled us to serve a record number of people in each and every one of our programs over the past year. Whether you lent your support financially or through a gift of time (or both!), your giving spirit is deeply appreciated.



Thank you!



Network News is published by Easter Seals Wisconsin • 101 Nob Hill Rd., Suite 301 • Madison, Wisconsin 53713 • Printing of the Network News is donated in part by CoakleyTech Madison, Wisconsin

Easter Seals Wisconsin News

Easter Seals Wisconsin Welcomes New Board Members

Easter Seals Wisconsin is pleased to announce new members of our state board of directors. They include Pam Birschbach of Verona, Mary Breunig of Madison, Steve Peotter of Oregon, Jon Menz of Menomonie and Scott Stevenson of Oregon. Their three year terms will begin in January, 2010.

Profiles of each new board member will appear in the next issue of the Network News.

Green Bay Packers Honor Mary Glassbrenner



The Green Bay Packers Community Quarterback award is designed to honor volunteers who exemplify leadership, dedication, creativity, and a commitment to improving the communities in which they live through volunteerism. Numerous nomination forms for this award are submitted for consideration and, after careful review of all nominations received, the Green Bay Packers selected Mary Glassbrenner as one of the 20 recipients for this award.

Mary was nominated for the award by Brenda Thompson, Director of Development for Easter Seals Wisconsin in northwest Wisconsin. "Mary is such a deserving person," says Thompson, "a willing volunteer who helps out in so many ways. And along with Easter Seals, she volunteers for Junior Achievement and the Chamber of Commerce. I was proud to nominate her and so happy to see her selected for this prestigious award."

All recipients of the Green Bay Packers Community Quarterback award will be honored at a recognition dinner scheduled for January 21, 2010, in the Legends Club at Lambeau Field.

Easter Seals Wisconsin extends its gratitude to Mary for her dedication to helping people with disabilities and congratulates her on this much deserved award!

Ed Heinz

Easter Seals lost a good friend, enthusiastic ambassador and talented former client with the death of Ed Heinz on October 18, 2009.

After injuring his back, Ed was trained by the Wisconsin Division of Vocational Rehabilitation in woodworking, opening his own business in Watertown. His finely crafted children's and doll house furniture and other wooden toys were popular staples in the Easter Seals Wisconsin Craftsmen Program and Ed worked to help other artisans with disabilities find success in the program. He also advocated tirelessly for passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Ed's contributions to Easter Seals and to people with disabilities around the state are deeply appreciated and he will be missed.

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Recognition Dinner

Accomplishments and Contributions Recognized

Friends and supporters of Easter Seals Wisconsin gathered at Nakoma Golf Club in Madison on November 3, 2009 to honor the accomplishments and contributions of individuals and groups across the state.

Outstanding Philanthropy Award Noel & Diane Smith

Noel and Diane Smith have contributed financially to Easter Seals for many years and have encouraged the philanthropy of their employees as well, making a significant impact on Easter Seals services to people with disabilities.

Outstanding Youth Fundraiser Award St. Mary's Spring Key Club (accepted by Carol Huck, Debra Sosinski, Ana Noller, Michael Mathweg & Cody Cardinal)

St. Mary's Spring Key Club not only supports Easter Seals financially, but has also deepened their support in a very hands-on manner, collecting needed supplies for Camp Wawbeek and working at camp's annual service project day.

Outstanding Fundraiser Award Mary Breunig

An ardent supporter of Easter Seals Respite Camp, Mary has raised nearly \$100,000 to benefit the camps by acting as a VIP in our Annual Campaign.

Outstanding Volunteer Award Michael Hansen

Ever since Michael Hansen received advice and assistance from the FARM Program to help him accommodate his disability and remain in farming, he has been looking for ways to give back to the program. He has been a model spokesperson for the program, eloquently sharing his story, and has represented Easter Seals Wisconsin at the National AgrAbility conference. He has also been instrumental in developing the concept and framework of the "Farm Pride" initiative. His willing spirit and generous gift of time led to his being selected for the Outstanding Volunteer Award.

Outstanding Partner Award Bank of Wisconsin Dells (accepted by Jon Bernander)

A long-time good neighbor to Camp Wawbeek, the Bank of Wisconsin Dells has made a long term commitment to support Easter Seals by serving as the Event Sponsor for the Golf Outing for Kids.

Easter Seals Wisconsin congratulates all award recipients on their accomplishments and on the contributions they have made.



From left to right: Jon Bernander, Carol Huck, Mary Breunig, Debra Sosinski, Ana Noller, Rod Ripley, Chris Fessler, John Van Wie, Michael Mattweg, Cody Cardinal, Walter Hahn, Michael Hansen, Cathy Geiter, Deb Hansen.

Outstanding Service Organization Award Waukesha County VFWs (accepted by Walter Hahn)

A number of Waukesha County VFWs have worked together for more than 50 years, raising funds to support Easter Seals Camps through a canister campaign.

Outstanding Fundraising Group Award Alliant Energy & Alliant Energy Employees (accepted by Rod Ripley)

Under the leadership of Rod Ripley, Alliant Energy and its enthusiastic employees have proven that raising money can be a lot of fun by conducting the Alliant Energy Bowling Classic for Easter Seals each spring since 1994.

Recognition of Personal Growth Cathy Geiter, Respite Camper

Cathy Geiter has been attending the Wisconsin Elks/Easter Seals Respite Camp for eight years. On her first visit, her father refused to leave the Dells area, convinced he would receive a call within a couple of hours asking him to come pick up Cathy. Due to Cathy's severe physical aggression, that had been his experience at other camps. But the call never came, and when he picked Cathy up at the end of the session, he was told she would be welcomed back. Since then, Cathy has come a long way. Along with the staff and her family, Cathy helped create a reward system that worked for her and has decreased the amount of physical aggression she displayed at camp, enabling her to interact more freely with her peers. For her hard work and accomplishments, Cathy was presented with the award for Recognition of Personal Growth.

Donation Center



Change a Life by Donating Clothing

Thrift stores are being inundated by customers who are struggling financially and looking for low cost options for clothing their families. But while the demand is very high, the supply is low. People are holding onto their clothing and household items rather than replacing them. As a result, donations are far from meeting the need.

By giving to the Easter Seals Donation Center at this time, you will be making a difference in two important ways: 1) you will help those who are struggling in these difficult financial times and 2) you will help a child or adult with disabilities receive the services they need from Easter Seals Wisconsin.

Just as the demand for clothing at thrift stores has increased, the demand for services from Easter Seals Wisconsin has climbed this year. A record number of people sought services from each of our major programs and we are determined to continue meeting the needs of those who seek our services.

The Donation Center helps to fund all of Easter Seals programs by collecting usable clothing, household goods, furniture and vehicles and selling them

– to Savers Thrift Stores, or through auto auctions. The proceeds directly and significantly impact our ability to continue providing needed services.

So, please, search your closets and cupboards and give what you can. There are a variety of ways to make your donation:

- For a residential pickup, call 1.877.208.5109 or schedule online at www.EasterSealsWisconsin.com.
- Can't wait for us to come to your neighborhood? You can drop your goods off at the Madison Donation Center (2217 S. Stoughton Road), at Saver's stores and at dozens of other locations around the state. For a complete listing, visit www.EasterSealsWisconsin.com.

We always need clothing and accessories, shoes and boots, all bedding except mattresses, housewares, furniture, small appliances, toys and games, tools, and working cars, trucks, boats and snowmobiles.

Recycle • Donate • Change Lives

Avenues to Understanding

Disability Awareness Initiatives for Children and Teens

One of Easter Seals Wisconsin's newer programs, Avenues to Understanding, has enjoyed tremendous success in its first few years, reaching over 150,000 young people across the state.

Avenues to Understanding was created to promote the inclusion and acceptance of people with disabilities by helping Wisconsin's youth to be more comfortable with their peers with disabilities and to gain understanding of the types of architectural and attitudinal barriers that people with disabilities encounter daily. We believe Avenues may help change attitudes and foster positive behaviors in ways that will make a direct impact on the lives of people with disabilities.

With adaptable, easy-to-use lesson plans designed for different age groups, Avenues is available *free of charge* to Wisconsin educators and group leaders. Materials are downloadable from our website. (Registration is required.)

To learn more, visit us at:

www.EasterSealsWisconsin.com



Event Highlights

Golf Outing for Kids

Golfers came together on June 30, 2009 for the 14th annual Golf Outing for Kids. Hosted by the father and son team of Pat and Barry Richter, the outing was held at Wild Rock at the Wilderness and Trappers Turn in Wisconsin Dells. In spite of unseasonably cool and windy weather, 46 teams raised \$195,000 for Easter Seals Camp Wawbeek and the Wisconsin Elks/Easter Seals Respite Camp.

Easter Seals Wisconsin is thankful to everyone who helps make the Golf Outing for Kids a success. Over the past 14 years the event has raised almost 1.4 million dollars.

2009 Golf Outing for Kids Major Sponsors

American Family Insurance	Monk's
Associated Wealth Management	Moosejaw Pizza & Dells Brewing Co.
Bank of Wisconsin Dells	Morgan Stanley
Buffalo Phil's Grille	Mortenson, Matzelle & Meldrum
C & H, Inc. of Reedsburg	Mt. Olympus Water & Theme Park
Dells.com/WisTravel.com	Neuman Pools
Fish & Schulkamp, Inc.	Noah's Ark
General Engineering, Inc.	Original Wisconsin Ducks
Great Wolf Resorts	Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Inc.
Ho-Chunk Casino	Suby Von Haden & Associates
Holiday Wholesale	SYSCO Foods-Baraboo
Kalahari Resorts	Tanger Outlets
Kraemer Brothers	Toshiba
Krantz Electric	Trappers Turn Golf Club
Large Format Digital	UW Virtual Colonoscopy Screening
Lathrop & Clark, LLP	Jack & Mary Waterman
Lycon, Inc.	Wilderness Hotel
Meridian Laboratory	Wild Rock Golf Club
Missoula Mac McDonald's	

Upcoming Events

February 6 • Blizzard Blast • Cottage Grove

March 20 • Wausau Dance and Raffle • Wausau

To learn more about upcoming events, please visit:

www.EasterSealsWisconsin.com

Wausau Golf Outing

The 1st Annual Wausau Golf Outing to benefit Easter Seals Wisconsin was held September 28, 2009 at the Wausau Country Club, with dinner following at the Wausau Elks Lodge. Thirty-one golfers braved the chilly conditions to help raise money for children and adults with disabilities and brought in over \$5,000.

"A new event is always a challenge," says event coordinator Brenda Thompson, Director of Development in northwest Wisconsin. "I'm so pleased with the results and so fortunate to have had the support of a number of outstanding volunteers including Skip Ellenbecker, Ray Dabler, Dick Westcott and Gloria Josephson."

The inaugural event was sponsored by **Presenting Sponsors** S.D. Ellenbecker, Janke Contractors and Decker Lumber & Supply; **Hat Sponsor** Flip Side Graphics, and **Hole and Team Sponsors** People's State Bank and Reliant Rehab. Supplemental Funding was provided by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.



Wisconsin Badger Basketball alum Greg Stiemsma poses with Kevin, a camper at Camp Wawbeek, where a cookout was held following the Golf Outing for Kids.

Eau Claire Fall Fun Fest

Record attendance helped the Eau Claire Fall Fun Fest, held November 14, 2009 at the Eagle's Club in Hallie, raise more than \$8,500 for Easter Seals Wisconsin.

Easter Seals thanks the volunteers that contributed to the success of the event by selling tickets and obtaining items for prizes and raffles. We also thank the Fall Fun Fest sponsors, including Tom and Pam Kell, John Basche of Eau Claire Realty, Festival Foods, Jeatran and Associates, Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwich Shop, Great Northern Corporation, McDonough Manufacturing, United Bank and Creative Graphics.



Respite and Recreation

Teamwork Provides New Outdoor Experience for Campers

The new boardwalk on the grounds of the Easter Seals Camps in Wisconsin Dells will allow children and adults using wheelchairs to experience nature more intimately, away from the sounds of traffic and out of sight of camp buildings.

With materials provided through an AmeriCorps grant, the boardwalk project was undertaken by volunteers from General Engineering in Portage, under the leadership of Kent Fish. Fish designed the structure and supervised its' building. AmeriCorps members, volunteers from the Wisconsin/Upper Michigan Circle K and additional volunteers from other area community groups joined the General Engineering employees who provided the majority of the labor over several weekends. Working together, the group was able to create a strong wooden pathway across one of the camp ravines previously inaccessible to a great many campers.

"The boardwalk was truly a group effort and is a wonderful example of how teamwork can accomplish what might not otherwise be achievable," says Ken Saville, Vice President of Program Development for Easter Seals Wisconsin. "Some of our campers have never been able to experience true solitude in woodland areas, and the boardwalk will make that possible for them. I hope we'll be able to expand it in the future, allowing our campers that much more freedom and independence."



Volunteers from a number of businesses and community groups worked together to build a boardwalk that will be shared by campers from Camp Wawbeek and Respite Camp.

Year-round Programming at Camp Wawbeek

Even though our fantastically fun – and very hectic! – summer is over, the excitement hasn't ended at Camp Wawbeek.

We are developing new initiatives that will enable us to offer schools and other community organizations the opportunity to stay at our wonderful facilities here at Camp Wawbeek. Groups renting our facility can choose to use the exciting team building programming we now offer utilizing our high and low ropes courses. To learn more, please contact us at groupprograms@wi.easterseals.com.

In addition, our traditional programs continue over the winter and into the spring. From February 12-14, 2010, we will be hosting a Young Adult weekend for campers between the ages of 14 and 25. The weekend will be filled with age-appropriate activities, including winter outdoor recreation, transition activities and a group take-home project.

We're also excited to be offering two Trailblazer weekends – one for adults 18 and over (March 5-7, 2010) and another for youth and teens aged 7-17 (March 19-21, 2010). These weekends will be filled with fun camp activities, lots of music and laughter, and plenty of projects to take home and share.

From April 9-11, our second Veterans Family weekend will be held for veterans with physical and/or other disabilities and their families. Along with many fully-accessible recreational activities, informal groups for veterans, spouses, and children will be offered to discuss issues and share resources. These sessions, run by knowledgeable and compassionate social workers or therapists, are optional.

For more info on year-round programming, contact Carissa Miller, Director of Camp Wawbeek at cmiller@wi.easterseals.com.

Vocational Services

Otto Bremer Foundation Awards Grant to Easter Seals FARM Program

Since it was created in 1991, the Easter Seals Wisconsin FARM program has been reaching out to an underserved population – farmers with disabilities. Recognizing the FARM Program's unique mission and outstanding success rate assisting farmers with disabilities to continue their profession, the Otto Bremer Foundation awarded Easter Seals Wisconsin a \$16,351 grant to expand services in Northwest Wisconsin. This is the largest private contribution ever awarded to the FARM Program. The grant provides critical funds for FARM Rural Rehabilitation Specialists to serve farmers with disabilities from Bayfield, Burnett, Dunn, Polk and St. Croix counties.

To help inform farmers in the northwest region of the services provided by the FARM Program and how the program works, a Neighbor to Neighbor outreach event was held in October, 2009. Former FARM client Don Hartung opened his 350 acre Eau Galle operation to neighbors who were invited to learn more about how the FARM Program helped him to alter his practices to accommodate a disability caused by a 2006 ATV accident. This accident resulted in an occipital dislocation in his neck, permanently limiting his ability to twist, turn

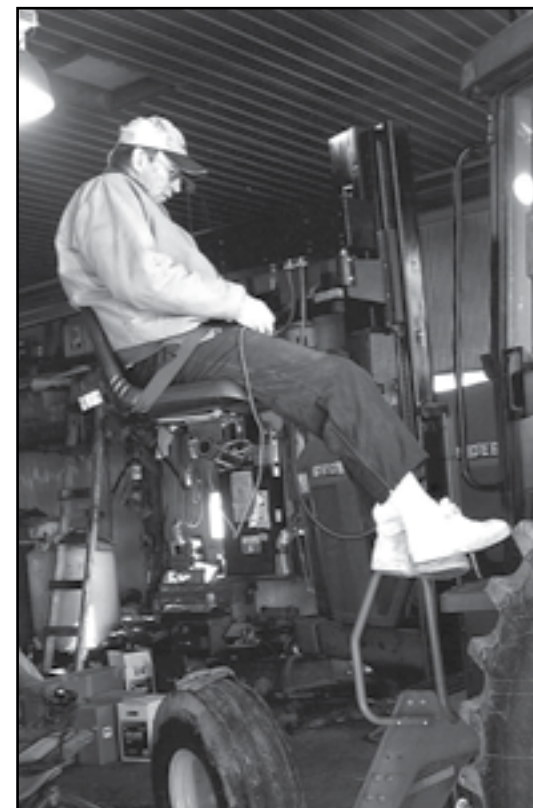


Farming is a way of life that values the family working together for a common goal.

and climb. Hartung contacted the FARM Program and, through the program's strong partnership with the State of Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), Easter Seals provided a worksite modification plan and DVR the needed equipment to help eliminate the motions Hartung had difficulty completing due to his injuries, making it possible for him to continue farming. Information on other available vocational rehabilitation and health resources was also shared with those in attendance.

DVR counselors are often the first line of service for farmers who inquire about vocational rehabilitation and, since 2003, Easter Seals Wisconsin staff have provided training for DVR counselors across the state to introduce concepts in modern agriculture, how farmers with disabilities can be accommodated, and the higher employment success rate of rehabilitating farmers to continue their profession versus training them for a new one. In order for more Northwest Wisconsin farmers to be served by the FARM Program, more referrals by state DVR counselors are needed; thus, Easter Seals Wisconsin FARM staff presented a comprehensive training for 30 DVR counselors. The training was hosted by Larry Kuhl, another former FARM client, on his 1200 acre farm in Amery. Kuhl shared how the FARM Program helped him accommodate limitations caused by a spinal cord injury that resulted from a 10 foot fall. Kuhl has little feeling below his chest and cannot walk. For several months, he was unable to work on the farm in any capacity. At the training, Kuhl demonstrated how his new tractor lifts, hand controls, automatic hitching devices, and mobility aids help him move around the farm, and have made it possible for him to return to farming full time.

Easter Seals Wisconsin is grateful to the Otto Bremer Foundation for providing a significant investment into vocational rehabilitation and successful employment outcomes for farmers in Northwest Wisconsin.



A tractor lift - an example of assistive technology - is demonstrated.

Needs List

The following items are always needed at Camp Wawbeek and Respite Camp. To view a more comprehensive list, please visit: www.EasterSealsWisconsin.com

Wet Wipes
Bug Spray
Sunscreen
Construction Paper
Markers and other craft supplies
White T-Shirts
Masking/Duct Tape
5-gallon Water Coolers
Family-size Ice Chests

Donations can be arranged by contacting Ken Saville at 1.800.422.2324 ext. 108.